

NEWSLETTER

Highlights Provincial AGM



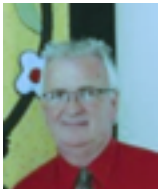
President Jim Kavanaugh

Our president gave a brief overview of the accomplishments of our organization in the past year including a 15% reduction in the premiums for Optional Life Insurance for those under 65. He was also hopeful that there will be an increase in our Retiree Life Insurance. Unfortunately it does look like the funding level for our pension plan will still fall short of 90% and will remain around 75% when the 2014 evaluation comes out. Included in his speech was a sincere thank you to the four Members at Large who have completed their final terms - Gary Archibald (SW Shore), Peter Lewis (Chignecto Central), George Landry (Strait Region), and Dorothy Smith (Halifax).



Vice-President Bill Berryman

Bill is the Chair of the Group of IX, the independent council of elected volunteers from nine seniors' organizations representing 100 000 NS seniors, a powerful presence influencing government decisions. This year they dealt with concerns about home care, transportation, pension and finances, Pharmacare, housing, physical, mental and oral health, and palliative care. Bill is also our representative on ACER/CART - Canadian Association of Retired Teachers - which represents 13 retired teacher organizations. With the fall federal election approaching, they are encouraging their members to have all candidates address relevant issues of Health Care, National Seniors Care Plan, Universal Pharmacare Program, and Pension and Retirement Income. (Pamphlets will be available at our AGM.)



Treasurer - Fred Jeffery

Fred was re-elected to a second term as our treasurer. This year \$10 000 has been allotted for Branch Initiatives/Programs. Branches are encouraged to apply for funds to develop programs that would benefit their members. (Our executive will be investigating this further and look forward to any suggestions you might have as well.)



Program Committee - Peter Lewis

Peter finished his final year on the executive as the first Program Committee Chair. He organized a workshop in Halifax to promote the new program - "Conscious Aging". The workshop, titled Creating a New Story for Life Beyond 55, received a positive response from the participants which means more workshops can be held in other areas of the province for members - if interest is shown. There is a \$25 fee for each participant. More information about the program can be found in our February provincial newsletter.



Karl

The second "new" program was initiated by the NS Hospice Palliative Care Association. This group helps to educate NS seniors on the importance of Advance Care Planning while they are still legally competent. Six RTO members, including our own Karl West, were trained to deliver this program. We hope to have Karl make a presentation to our branch in the near future



Communications Gary Archibald

Gary has been the driving force behind the improvements and quality of our provincial newsletter which sends out three issues a year. It will continue to do so but under new leadership (TBA). Fortunately, Gary will still be around as the RTO representative on the NSTU Pension Committee



Membership George Landry

There are still problems correlating our membership list with the one Johnson Insurance maintains so that there can be one accurate list. All members are encouraged to contact their executives if address or phone changes are made. (This includes email addresses.) A new chair for this committee is in the process of being chosen.



Research and Review Committee

This new committee is chaired by our MAL, Bill Wagstaff. At the moment the committee is collating and comparing all the responses from a survey completed by the RTO's of the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec about their structure, operations and activities .



Pension and Benefits Al MacKinnon

A draft version of a bulleted list of what pension and benefit changes a retiree might encounter when reaching 65 will be presented to the executive for their consideration. The committee is still waiting for a decision to be made about proposed changes regarding benefits for retired teachers who survive their dependents, and enhanced benefits for a surviving spouse and dependents.

Thank You, Doug!

After being involved with the Local NSTU for many years, it was not surprising that Doug Cameron joined the RTO and became a part of the Executive, remaining for several years in charge of Membership. His detailed memories of our RTO activities and its history provided continuity for the ever-changing table officers of the Annapolis Branch. No matter what the topic was under discussion, he had timely, worthwhile comments and suggestions. His advice and participation in our Branch will be greatly missed. We'll also miss the warm hospitality and homemade cookies from Mary whenever an executive meeting was held at the Cameron's.

On behalf of all the RTO members of Annapolis, thank you, Doug, for all you have done in keeping our branch a successful and active one.



LOTS GOING ON!



Frances



Jane

King's Shorts

King's Shorts will be on stage at King's Theatre for the ninth year featuring 8 - ten minute plays written by Nova Scotian and international writers. This year several of our retired teachers are involved in the plays in a variety of roles.

Sherry Caldwell is in a ten minute play called *An Opening*. **Frances Rafuse** appears in a play called *Go Green*. Fran is also part of the backstage crew as an assistant stage manager. **Elizabeth Rhymer** is appearing in *Fish and Dicks*, *Tales from the Digby Fish Gutting Business* and *Detective Agency*. **Margie VanBinsbergen** is in *Go to Hell*. **Jane DeWolfe** is directing *Curfew*, and for the ninth year, is stage manager for King's Shorts. Retired teachers **Doug Glenen**, **Jennifer Batiot**, **Liz Rhymer** and **Jane DeWolfe** are members of the organizing team for this event.

WHERE

King's Theatre
Annapolis Royal

WHEN

Friday, June 12
and
Saturday, June 13
at
7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 14
at
2:00 p.m.

Tickets

\$12 - Advance
\$16 - Door

New Inductees - Middleton Sports Wall of Fame

The Directors of the Middleton Sports Wall of Fame already include retired teachers Albert Peppard, Albert Johnson, Gordon MacDonald, Jan Davis, Paul Shaffner and Aubrey Morris. On September 27 new inductees with strong connections to the Annapolis RTO will be joining their ranks. Honoured in the Builder category are Carmen Toole, former teacher and coach at MRHS, and the late Burton Parker, father of Bridgetown teacher Michelle Freeman. In the Athlete category is Bonnie McNeill, daughter of President Neil and Linda MacNeil. (Bonnie was an excellent athlete in many sports.) Congratulations to all of them for their achievements.

Special Award?

In August, former Annapolis County School Board Chair, Bonnie Johnson, will have "survived" FIFTY years of marriage to Albert Johnson, past president of our Annapolis RTO Branch. According to Albert, she deserves a medal. We agree, Albert, but she probably expects a little more...



Saturday July 18th, 2015 @ Jubilee Park, Bridgetown

A celebration of the environmental, cultural, historical and recreational values of the Annapolis River.

Join us for a full day of activities for every member of the family!

General Admission to the park is **free!**

There will be live music, exhibits, vendors, food and kid's activities from 9AM to 5PM

- **Canoe/Kayak Exhibit** - over 30 craft on display, birch bark, cedar strip canvas covered, old, new, refurbished, strip epoxy, locally made – free admission, good will donations accepted
- **Dragon Boat Races** – nine teams of 20 paddlers each will compete in the first Dragon Boat races on the Annapolis River – races will be between 9AM and 11AM so come early!
- **Opening Ceremonies** – 11:00am – 11:30am at the bandstand in Jubilee Park
- **Guided Pontoon Boat Tours** – a tour guide will talk about the history of the Annapolis River – the approx. one hour tour costs \$25 – call the CARP office for tickets
- **Children's Activities** – throughout the day in the park. Watch for updates!
- **Traditional Canoe Races** – in the tradition of canoeing in Nova Scotia this will involve paddling and carrying – limited to 20 teams – call the CARP office to enter your two person team – a great spectator event as well.
- **Canoe Obstacle Course** – 20 two person teams will navigate through 6 obstacles – call the CARP office to registrar – another great spectator event
- **Dinner on the Dauphin** – 5:00pm – 8:00pm - a five course Acadian themed meal at the pavilion – 100 tickets only - \$25 per person – Call the CARP office to reserve your tickets

Most events have a limited number of tickets/entrants available.

Contact the CARP office at [902-532-7533](tel:902-532-7533) for tickets/registration to the various events.

Check out our website at <http://www.annapolisriver.ca/riverfest> for updates!

Need a New Passport?



Learning the hard way is my forte, like replacing my passport. I neglected to get it renewed before its “expiry” date in January only to find one was needed immediately this spring. I raced to the post office to get an application, then over to the drug store for new photos - do they always make you look like an alien life form? - and then, after an hour’s search, found a guarantor who was home. This was followed by a mad dash to Halifax to get to the passport office before

it closed. Surprise! Turns out you have a YEAR to renew a passport after it has expired. No guarantor required. This was not mentioned on the application form or on the website. It IS found on the renewal form.

I learned a couple of other things. In the photos, glasses are not permitted, but a toothless smile is - like a smirk. Also, they now ask you to show a “bit” of ear. (I’m not kidding!) Another tip found the hard way was this. I always hold onto my passport while being scanned. This is a no-no when it is still in its protective RFID cover. Seems RFID covers set off the alarms, a jarring experience for security personnel and especially little old white-haired women.

While I was dealing with my passport tribulations, a fellow RTO member experienced a few of her own. Two years ago she had to have an emergency replacement for a lost passport. When it recently expired, she DID have to use an application form rather than a renewal. She too got her form from the post office only to receive a call a month later informing her she needed to send in a copy of her marriage license since her passport was in her married name. She explained that the form did not list the license as a requirement. He replied she must have used the old April 2014 form. A new one had gone out in November 2014. (The post office had not replaced the old ones.) The moral of this story is - use the online form. It will always be up-to-date.

Remember, if you mail in your application/renewal, it will take at least three to four weeks. If you use the Halifax office, it will only take two weeks, BUT when you pick it up, there is an extra \$12 fee. This may explain why our Federal budget is on its way to being balanced.

Save the Dates PtT 2015 View this email in your browser

ARTISTS ARE COMING..
to
Paint
the
Town



AUGUST 15 & 16, 2015
Annapolis Royal, NS

Dear Art Lover,

2015 will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Annapolis Region Community Arts Council's Premier Art Event, Paint the Town! As a past patron, supporter and visitor we hope that you will come and join in the fun on August 15 & 16, 10am to 6pm.

For two days, 80 amateur and professional artists will be located throughout the town of Annapolis Royal creating original work for same-day auction. Proceeds are split 50/50 between the organisation and the artist.



WINE TOUR?

Tentatively I have planned an afternoon wine tour of two of the Annapolis County wineries - the Bear River and Annapolis Highland Vineyards. The Beaver Creek Winery is a little out of the way to visit at this time.

There would be two pick up points - one in Bridgetown and one in Annapolis Royal. The bus would drive to the Bear River Winery first for a tour and tasting and then we'd have some time in Bear River to visit "Flight of Fancy", the art gallery in the old school, or the Sissiboo Coffee Roaster. Perhaps you might enjoy a walk around the village. Then we'd go to the Highlands Winery for a tour and tasting before heading back to Annapolis Royal. If you wish, and there's time, we could stop at the rug-hooking studio in Clementsport on our way back.

A day during the second week in August will be chosen after I have feedback from those interested. The bus holds 20 people so it will be first come, first served. The cost will be \$30, more than expected, but it seems wineries charge for tours and tastings. RTO members and family members are welcomed. Suggestions will be solicited during the AGM, or please just email me if you are interested.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

End-of-Line Pub
Bridgetown

11:30 Meet and Greet

11:45 Meeting

Speaker - Dr. Theresa Maclean ND

Theresa will speak to us about foods that may help ease joint and muscle aches as we age.

Menu: Please choose one of the following and email your choice or call (902-765-6647) before Friday, June 12. *Anyone who is not able to attend AFTER ordering, will be responsible for paying for their pre-ordered meal.*

1. **Vegetarian stir fry - teriyaki or curry**
2. **Chicken caesar wrap, fries & coleslaw**
3. **One piece fish - deep or panfried & FF**
4. **Caesar salad, Digby scallops, garlic toast**

All meals include tea or coffee and dessert.

Total Price - \$15.60 which INCLUDES tax and gratuity

Looking forward to seeing you!!

RFID credit card wallets with RTO logo are now available - \$2. Buy them at AGM or order one from executive member.

(Recommended by RCMP Senior Safety Officer)

